

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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----- 120988

O P 202331Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, US

REF: STATE 145089

SUBJ: DEPT OF STATE JUNE 20 PRESS BRIEFING ON ZAIRE

NAIROBI FOR ASST. SECRETARY DAVIS

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON  
ZAIRE SITUATION AT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S NOON PRESS  
BRIEFING JUNE 20.

QUOTE Q -- ON ANOTHER MATTER, I UNDERSTAND THAT SHELDON  
B. VANCE IS HEADING A MISSION TO ZAIRE IN CONNECTION WITH  
THEEXPULSION OF THE AMBASSADOR, AND SO ON. CAN YOU  
CONFIRM THAT?

A YES

Q ARE THERE ANY DETAILS YOU CAN GIVE US?

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A FIRST OF ALL, I CAN CONFIRM THE PRESS REPORT THAT JUST CAME OUT OF KINSHASA. WE HAD SUGGESTED TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU THAT HE RECEIVE AMBASSADOR VANCE -- AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, HE WAS OUR FORMER AMBASSADOR DOWN THERE -- AS A SPECIAL U.S. EMISSARY. I MIGHT POINT OUT THAT OUR SENDING OF AMBASSADOR VANCE UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO U.S.-ZAIRE RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR VANCE AND MR. WALTER CUTLER -- WHO IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF CENTRAL

AFRICAN AFFAIRS -- WILL BE LEAVING TONIGHT FOR KINSHASA.

Q WHY DO YOU DISPATCH THESE TWO GENTLEMEN THERE? WHAT IS YOUR PARTICULAR REASON? ARE THEY INVESTIGATING OR ARE THEY THERE ONLY TO TELL PRESIDENT MOBUTU THAT WE DEARLY LOVE HIM? WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THIS?

A AS I SAID EARLIER, AMBASSADOR VANCE WAS OUR AMBASSADOR IN ZAIRE FOR THREE OR FOUR YEARS. HE KNOWS PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND ALL OF THE TOP MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT VERY WELL, AND IT WAS SUGGESTED TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU THAT THIS MIGHT BE A VERY USEFUL MOVE IN TRYING TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION THAT AROSE -- THE SITUATION WHICH I ADDRESSED YESTERDAY.

Q BOB, THE SECRETARY WAS QUOTED ON THE RADIO AS SAYING THAT HE THOUGHT THIS WHOLE THING MAY HAVE COME OUT OF A MISUNDERSTANDING, PROBABLY CAUSED BY FORGERIES. COULD YOU AMPLIFY ON THAT?

A I CANNOT AMPLIFY IT VERY MUCH. HE SAID EXACTLY WHAT YOU REPEATED NOW, BERNIE -- PROBABLY BY FORGERIES. IN THE ZAIRE PRESS, THERE HAS BEEN REFERENCE TO AT LEAST ONE DOCUMENT -- I CANNOT GIVE YOU THE DETAILS ON IT -- BUT SOME ALLEGED DOCUMENT WRITTEN BY A MILITARY OFFICER WHO AT SOME TIME IN THE PAST HAD BEEN IN TRAINING HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. I BELIEVE IT WAS AT FORT LEAVENWORTH, IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY. I BELIEVE THAT IS WHAT THE SECRETARY WAS PROBABLY REFERRING TO.

Q IS HE SUGGESTING THAT SOME FOREIGN GOVERNMENT MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE FORGED THE DOCUMENT?

A WAS THE SECRETARY SUGGESTING?

Q YES.

A NO. I DO NOT THINK HE WAS TRYING TO POINT THE FINGER AT ANYBODY. WHEN HE SAID "PROBABLY THROUGH FORGERIES," I THINK HE WAS REFERRING TO THAT; AND WE, AS I

SAID YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE, HOPE THAT IF THERE IS ANY SUCH EVIDENCE, WE WOULD WELCOME THE CHANCE TO LOOK AT IT TO TRY AND RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Q FOR EXAMPLE, EVIDENCE EXACTLY IN THAT REGARD OF THE MANIPULATIONS OF A CERTAIN OFFICE OF "DISINFORMATION" OF A CERTAIN FOREIGN POWER -- IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING.

HADN'T KISSINGER THIS IN MIND WHEN HE SAID THAT YESTERDAY AND BEFORE THAT?

A I CANNOT ANSWER ANY MORE SPECIFICALLY WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE HAD IN MIND.

Q BOB, HAS THE SECRETARY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU TO ARRANGE THIS MISSION?

A WE SUGGESTED THE VANCE MISSION TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU; AND THEN PRESIDENT MOBUTU THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE A VERY GOOD IDEA. THAT IS WHY AMBASSADOR VANCE IS LEAVING THIS EVENING, JOHN.

Q SO THE SECRETARY RATHER THAN NAT DAVIS SUGGESTED IT TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU?

A YES.

Q IT WAS A DIRECT CONVERSATION?

A NO, IT WAS NOT A DIRECT CONVERSATION.

Q IT HAD GONE THROUGH THE EMBASSY?  
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A THERE WAS NOT A DIRECT CONVERSATION.

Q WELL, WHAT WAS IT?

Q YOU DID SAY IT WAS A PROPOSAL FROM THE SECRETARY?

A YES. YES, SIR.

Q HOW WAS IT CONVEYED, BOB?

A THERE WAS NO CONVERSATION. I HAVE NOT LOOKED INTO THIS KIND OF A DETAIL. I ASSUME IT WAS BY TELEGRAPHIC MEANS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO CONVERSATION ABOUT IT.

Q IS AMBASSADOR DEANE HINTON STILL LEAVING ON SAT-  
URDAY, OR IS HE NOT?

A YES, HE IS, SIR.

Q YOU MENTIONED THAT VANCE WAS AMBASSADOR THERE. DO  
YOU HAVE THE DATES WHEN HE WAS?

A LET ME CHECK IT.

Q BOB --

A HE WAS AMBASSADOR THERE UP UNTIL LAST SUMMER. I  
CAN GIVE YOU THAT NOW BECAUSE DEANE HINTON HAS BEEN  
AMBASSADOR THERE FOR ABOUT A YEAR.

Q BOB, I'M STILL NOT QUITE SURE I UNDERSTAND WHY THESE  
TWO MEN ARE GOING OUT. IF I UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU SAID  
YESTERDAY CORRECTLY, THE UNITED STATES IS IN FACT THE  
AGGRIEVED PARTY IN THAT WE HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO  
WITH THE CHARGES THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS LEVELED, WE  
HAVE NOT SEEN ANY EVIDENCE, WE HAVE ASKED FOR EVIDENCE --  
IT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN TO US -- OUR AMBASSADOR IS BEING  
KICKED OUT, AND YET WE ARE SENDING OVER A TEAM OF TWO  
PEOPLE AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.  
WHY?

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A I SAID EARLIER, TED, THAT WE ATTACH GREAT IMPOR-  
TANCE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE, AND THE SECRETARY FELT  
THAT THIS WOULD BE IN CONSONANCE WITH THAT IMPORTANCE  
THAT WE ATTACH TO RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE. HE THOUGHT THAT  
THIS WOULD BE A VERY USEFUL MOVE -- TO GO AND TALK WITH  
THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT  
TO TRY AND CLEAR UP THIS PROBLEM. UNQUOTE.

2. IN USING PRESS BRIEFING MATERIAL ABOVE, POSTS SHOULD  
CONTINUE TO FOLLOW GUIDANCE PARA TWO REFTEL. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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